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PROSPECTIVE PEACE IN EUROPE.

REV. G. W. CUTTER, M. D.

Among other signs of the times, from which the friends of peace may derive encouragement, should be noted certain passages addressed to Europe by his Holiness the Pope in his last Allocution. In the name of Christianity and civilization he pleads for international peace and equity. Of course he also demands a restoration of the temporal power of the Church; a claim to which none but his own faithful subjects will listen. But, when he pronounces *aggressive wars accursed* and invokes the spirit of brotherhood and justice to settle the questions which keep the continent under arms, he finds a response in the heart of every intelligent lover of humanity. The wisest philosophers and historians accept as an axiom the fact that the highest interest of all nations is promoted by the common progress of the race, and believe that every difficult problem or grievance may be settled without shedding a drop of blood. To the average politician, however, and especially to diplomats and high officials in camp and court such notions seem too fanciful and utopian for serious consideration. Still, the venerable Pontiff rightly discharged a pressing duty of his holy office, when he cast the weight of his authority on the side of Christian peace and equity.

INFLUENCE OF MASONRY.

The Church has never favored secret societies, except those under its own direction, and has always been opposed to Free Masons. Yet, at present we find this large brotherhood working in entire accord with the peace principles advocated by the Pope. Believing as they do in the Unity of God and the Unity of the entire human race, and maintaining the cardinal virtues of charity, peace and good will, they have been led naturally to extend and apply their rules of benevolence outside the narrow limits of state, or sect, or race, and to speak against the horrors and cruelties of international wars.

As a class, the Free Masons of Paris in the last city election were opposed to General Boulanger—the man who for the hour has been pushed forward to represent that great mass of restless and excitable malcontents, who would precipitate a war with Germany, or would resort to almost any violent or revolutionary measures to gratify their revenge, or the passion for national glory, or their vain and false ideas of patriotism.

All parties realize the fact that war is imminent; but, how or where it may begin no one knows. The causes of war are twofold; the accidental and the permanent. Of the accidental causes little can be said or predicted. Last week, it seemed possible for France and Germany to call their armed legions into the field, merely because a French officer, summoned by telegram to visit his dying mother in Alsace, was not permitted to cross the frontier owing to the fact that his passport had not been made out in due form. The incident called out much abuse, and recrimination; and showed how trivial a circumstance might embroil millions of men. When both sides are ready for a fight and mutually exasperated, a very small provocation is a sufficient *casus belli*.

PERMANENT CAUSE OF WAR.

The permanent causes of war are the enormous armaments of Europe and the enormous cost of supporting them. The total war budgets of the different States, great and small, amount yearly to over \$700,000,000, not counting the last special votes for augmentation.

At the present rate of increase the total cost of the armies and navies of Europe, together with debts contracted by wars, will at the end of the twentieth century amount to \$400,000,000,000. The national debts steadily increase, and the State and city taxes grow with each year, while the number of active laborers and producers is constantly withdrawn from peaceful and profitable paths of industry to add to the available military force of each nation. Hence, the burden will soon become, if indeed it has not already become, insupportable. A change *must* come in one form or another. Last week, a leading member of the German Parliament boldly declared that the tremendous taxes, which were crushing the people, were the necessary consequence of militarism. Ten milliards of marks had been taken from the German people, and, with the greater part of the milliards received from France, had been spent upon defences and fortifications; yet the distresses of the people had been continually aggravated. "To-day," he said, "Germany is no stronger for having spent these colossal sums; and if another policy is not adopted, a *social revolution* will take place at no distant period."

The number of men to-day ready for duty upon the Continent may be stated to be in round figures, as follows:

Germany	-	-	5,900,000
France	-	-	5,710,000
Russia	-	-	6,675,000
Italy	-	-	3,530,000
Austria	-	-	4,315,000

Total, 26,130,000

If the present alliances should hold good in the event of war, Germany, Italy and Austria could call out 13,745,000 men against 12,385,000 men from France and Russia. Using the old figure of speech, and omitting England from our consideration as neutral, "the balance of power" would swing almost evenly. But the amount of misery, cruelty, crime, material waste and moral degradation, which would come to Europe in consequence of such a tremendous conflict of forces, is simply incalculable and appalling.

PROSPECT OF DISARMAMENT.

Occasionally, it has been feebly suggested by one side or the other, that the terrible expense and suspense might be mitigated by a general disarmament; but such a proposition is at once rejected as impracticable by officers and ministers of war. While all disclaim any belligerent intentions, all insist upon the present equipment as a necessary means of defence, and, curiously enough, as a guarantee of peace! Each nation seems to say to itself, let us become so mighty and formidable, that no one will dare attack or insult us. But neither at Paris, Berlin, or St. Petersburg is it ever suspected that each new increment of military force at home is a fresh incentive to its neighbors to magnify and multiply in turn their implements of death and destruction. It is now a well recognized trick of each war minister, before demanding from the national parliament a grant of more men and more money for the army, to attempt to create a panic through the official journals and induce the people to believe that the enemy is meditating an invasion.

Unfortunately such a dreadful suggestion can always be made most plausible. The old feuds and jealousies can be revived at short notice, and every movement of the enemy, however purely defensive in fact, may be

skilfully misrepresented as arrogant, offensive and dangerous. A very small spark may fire a magazine, and a slight misunderstanding may easily grow into an opportunity for striking the first blow. Mutual rivalry and suspicion keep each nation upon the alert. France and Germany preserve an armed truce because of that bloody and bitter badge, Alsace-Lorraine; in the Balkan Peninsula Russia and Austria glower at each other across the Carpathians; England and Russia challenge and threaten one another across Afghanistan; in the Baltic provinces there is a continual strife between panslavism and pangermanism; England and France cannot agree upon the Egyptian occupation; while all would like to fall upon "the sick man of the Orient" and rob Turkey of whatever is most available. By way of diversion and possible aggrandizement the great powers are engaged just now in a general scramble for all the unclaimed territory of Africa and the isles of the sea. By mutual understanding they plunder the uncivilized races, without quarrelling among themselves. Whether their bloody occupation of these outlying regions can be called an advance of Christian civilization may well be doubted. The vices and crimes introduced by European soldiers quickly degrade the weaker races with whom they come in contact. Too often, again, brute force and superior arms have laid waste an entire country. *Ubi solitudinem faciunt, pacem appellant.* Yet, the reports sent home invariably represent the progress of arts and arms as grand and glorious.

One of the most hopeful and significant of recent events, was the proposition introduced in the German Parliament by Herr Liebknecht that Alsace-Lorraine be created an independent and neutral province. The German socialist used strong language and stated that he held *war to be a crime*, and believed that those who committed this crime ought to be punished. He further declared that by advocating this opinion he considered himself to be a better patriot than those who opposed him. Of course he represents a very small minority; yet it marks the beginning of a higher and better era in international politics when even one man dares utter such sentiments before the assembled deputies of a great empire.

Undoubtedly the independence and neutrality of Alsace-Lorraine would be a most happy solution of a much-vexed question. Nor is it so impracticable as it may at first appear. I notice that the same opinion is advanced by the table and learned Count Kamarowsky of the University of Moscow, who is one of the foremost advocates of peace, and who proposes that if Alsace-Lorraine does not wish to stand alone, it might easily be added to Switzerland, under the same conditions of independence and neutrality. The lesser powers of Europe to-day exert an incalculable influence for good, by keeping apart the greater warlike powers and by lessening the annoyances and softening the friction between the belligerent nations. It would be well if all the disputed provinces between the great powers could thus be neutralized and their independence granted by a congress of nations.

Of course, the wisest and best scheme is that which contemplates some form of international arbitration, and this is the plan which is undoubtedly growing in public favor. Such a congress of the various leagues of peace and liberty as was held in Neuchâtel last fall is full of promise for the future. In every great city the principles of arbitration are being discussed and agitated. Gradually the workingmen are discovering where their true interests lie, not in fratrici-

dal strife but in international justice and peace. Thus, the rank and file of the enormous standing arms are becoming imbued with the broad principles of humanity, and in the same degree are made averse to warfare and senseless military service. As soon as the masses can organize and make their wishes known and their power felt in the legislatures of the Continent the warriors of the world will discover that their day of glory is destined to pass by. From all that I can learn from many sources, the Italians are now working most actively for peace. In April a grand congress will be held at Rome to put into practical form the best means of establishing international tribunals of peace, of reducing the immense standing armies of Europe, and of creating a more intelligent public sentiment upon the all-important subject of peace and arbitration. In this direction we may look for the highest and most beneficent results.

PARIS, 1889.

PROGRESSIVE STATESMEN.

Considering that ex-Secretary-of-State Bayard has been a life-long member of the party under whose auspices all the foreign wars of the Republic have been prosecuted, and that he descends from a historic family of the same political predilections, his recently announced Peace Policy, as authorizedly defined in *The Baltimore Sun*, is particularly, and to the philanthropist most promisingly significant. It reflects more honor upon his name in his retirement from office, incident to the defeat of his party, infinitely more than would have been secured had his continuance in office been assured and the noble sentiments had remained unsaid. And redoubled is the gratification when we connectedly consider the pacificatory and conciliatory spirit being manifested by the Shermans, of the opposite party — John, in the Senate, working to establish a commercial union of all the nations of the Americas, including Canada; and Gen. William T., the first of the military class now living, insisting upon so directing domestic legislation as to soften down and at last eradicate the hatreds and asperities that have survived the armed conflict of the sections. And while this could not well be more from a moral stand-point of consideration than it is — the assertion and vindication of the Christ-Spirit, in national conduct, which has been practically ignored through all the past — it rises to the highest wisdom of Progressive Statesmanship. — *The Universal Republic*.

The talented actor Edwin Booth, said to be much superior to his class in moral character, fell in partial paralysis on a stage before a large audience at Rochester, N. Y., on account of his use of tobacco. He is said to have smoked sixteen cigars a day and a pipe somewhat! He has partially recovered and promises to moderate smoking. How much better to abstain!

The extreme solicitude to avoid the calamities of war by the aid of peaceful congresses and impartial mediation, is, on the whole, the strongest evidence, stronger than that afforded by the progress of science and art, of our boasted advance in civilization. — *W. H. Prescott, Conquest of Mexico, page 35.*